(c) whether all these children are receiving education at schools;

(d) whether Government have received complaints regarding discrimination against them in schools; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government to address these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) As per annual sentinel survey, it is estimated that around 70,000 children below 15 years of age are HIV infected. Out of them about 22000 children have been registered under Pediatric ART Initiative and 6261 clinically eligible children have been started on ART. The educational status of these children is not known.

(d) Reports of discrimination against 34 school children, were received from the districts of Kottayam, Kerala; Taran Taran, Punjab and Sangli, Maharashtra in 2007.

(e) All the 34 school children have been readmitted to the schools following intervention by the state Departments of Education and State AIDS Control Societies.

Boosting of medical tourism

1449. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is very fast becoming the pharmacy of the world and medical tourists are flocking to India;

(b) if so, what is preventing to provide basic health care services to prevent diseases;

(c) whether it is also a fact that strong dose of reform is required to boost this sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH **AND** FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Large Numbers of Foreigners are coming to India for medical treatment as Private Health care in India is undergoing a fast change by improving super specialty facilities. At present foreigners coming for medical treatment in India are being granted tourist visa by Indian Missions abroad. Tourist visa is non-convertible, non-extendable and is valid only for six months. This causes unnecessary harassment to the foreigners who have come for medical treatment and require to live in India for more than six months. Therefore, to facilitate foreign nationals, who wish to utilize specialized medical health care facilities, to come to India for medical treatment, a new visa category "Medical Visa" [M-Visa] has been introduced.